AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A trimming system for a user-operated ground vehicle capable of performing mowing and trimming operations, said system comprising:

drive means operatively coupled to a drive system of the vehicle having said trimming system mounted thereon;

a trimming unit operatively coupled to said drive means for performing edge trimming operations, and

a guide wheel mounted to a vehicle frame adjacent said trimming unit for maintaining said trimming unit at a predetermined distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, said guide wheel being mounted on a resiliently biased bracket dimensioned to materially deflect, said bracket being fixedly mounted to the vehicle frame and resiliently biased by a spring mounted between the vehicle frame and said bracket for allowing material and spring biased deflection of said bracket by a predetermined distance under the bias of said spring relative to said trimming unit and the vehicle frame upon contact of said guide wheel with the stationary object,

wherein said trimming unit including a spindle having at least one trimming wire for enabling performance of said edge trimming operations during rotation of said spindle, said spindle being coupled to said trimming unit by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said spindle by rotation of said spindle relative to said shaft.

2. (Original) A trimming system according to claim 1, wherein said drive means comprising at least one driven pulley operatively coupled to a drive pulley of the vehicle for driving said trimming unit.

3. (Original) A trimming system according to claim 2, wherein said drive pulley being coupled to a mowing unit and said trimming unit to at least one of selectively and simultaneously drive said mowing and trimming units.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 1, wherein said guide wheel being made of nylon.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A trimming system for a user-operated ground vehicle capable of performing mowing and trimming operations, said system comprising:
drive means operatively coupled to a drive system of the vehicle having said trimming system mounted thereon;
a trimming unit operatively coupled to said drive means for performing edge trimming operations~~,~~ ; and
a guide wheel mounted on a driven axle of said trimming unit for maintaining said trimming unit at a predetermined lateral distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, said guide wheel being mounted on the vehicle by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said guide wheel by rotation of said guide wheel relative to said shaft.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A trimming system for a user-operated ground vehicle capable of performing mowing and trimming operations, said system comprising:

drive means operatively coupled to a drive system of the vehicle having said trimming system mounted thereon;

a trimming unit operatively coupled to said drive means for performing edge trimming operations, ; and

a guide wheel mounted to a vehicle frame adjacent said trimming unit for maintaining said trimming unit at a predetermined distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, said guide wheel being mounted on a resiliently biased bracket dimensioned to materially deflect, said bracket being fixedly mounted to the vehicle frame and resiliently biased by a spring mounted between the vehicle frame and said bracket for allowing material and spring biased deflection of said bracket by a predetermined distance under the bias of said spring relative to said trimming unit and the vehicle frame upon contact of said guide wheel with the stationary object,

wherein said trimming unit being coupled to the vehicle by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said trimming unit by rotation of said trimming unit relative to said shaft.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A mowing and trimming system comprising:
a drive unit including at least one drive and driven pulley, said drive pulley being operatively coupled to said driven pulley to at least one of selectively and simultaneously drive a mowing unit for performing mowing operations and a trimming unit for performing edge trimming operations, and a guide wheel mounted on a driven axle of said trimming unit for maintaining said trimming unit at a predetermined lateral distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, wherein said guide wheel being mounted on a vehicle having said mowing and trimming system mounted thereon, said guide wheel being mounted by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said guide wheel by rotation of said guide wheel relative to said shaft.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A mowing and trimming system according to claim 16, wherein said trimming unit including a spindle having at least one trimming wire for enabling performance of said edge trimming operations during rotation of said spindle, said spindle being coupled to said trimming unit by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said spindle by rotation of said spindle relative to said shaft.

19. (Previously Presented) A mowing and trimming system according to claim 16, wherein said trimming unit being coupled to a vehicle having said mowing and trimming system mounted thereon by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said trimming unit by rotation of said trimming unit relative to said shaft.

20. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 1, wherein said bracket permits the predetermined deflection of said guide wheel to thus enable a user to operate the vehicle at a full speed in the vicinity of stationary objects.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A trimming system for a user-operated ground vehicle capable of performing mowing and trimming operations, said system comprising:

drive means operatively coupled to a drive system of the vehicle having said trimming system mounted thereon;

a trimming unit operatively coupled to said drive means for performing edge trimming operations, and

a guide wheel mounted to a vehicle frame adjacent said trimming unit for maintaining said trimming unit at a predetermined distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, said guide wheel being mounted on a resiliently biased bracket, said bracket being fixedly mounted to the vehicle frame and resiliently biased for allowing deflection of said bracket by a predetermined distance relative to said trimming unit and the vehicle frame upon contact of said guide wheel with the stationary object.

23. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 22, wherein said trimming unit including a spindle having at least one trimming wire for enabling performance of said edge trimming operations during rotation of said spindle, said spindle being coupled to said trimming unit by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said spindle by rotation of said spindle relative to said shaft

24. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 22, wherein said drive means comprising at least one driven pulley operatively coupled to a drive pulley of the vehicle for driving said trimming unit.

25. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 22, wherein said drive pulley being coupled to a mowing unit and said trimming unit to at least one of selectively and simultaneously drive said mowing and trimming units.

26. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 22, wherein said guide wheel being made of nylon.

27. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 22, wherein said bracket permits the predetermined deflection of said guide wheel to thus enable a user to operate the vehicle at full speed away from and in the vicinity of stationary objects without requiring reduction of the speed in the vicinity of stationary objects.

28-30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously Presented) A trimming system for a user-operated ground vehicle capable of performing mowing and trimming operations in a cemetery including cemetery headstones of various configurations, said system comprising:

drive means operatively coupled to a drive system of the vehicle having said trimming system mounted thereon;

a trimming unit operatively coupled to said drive means for performing edge trimming operations, and

a guide wheel mounted to a vehicle frame adjacent said trimming unit for maintaining said trimming unit at a predetermined distance from the cemetery headstone during performance of said edge trimming operations such that at least one trimming wire of said trimming unit contacts the cemetery headstone, said guide wheel being mounted on a resiliently biased bracket, said bracket being fixedly mounted to the vehicle frame and resiliently biased for allowing deflection of said bracket by a predetermined distance relative to said trimming unit and the vehicle frame upon contact of said guide wheel with the cemetery headstone.

32. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 31, wherein said trimming unit including a spindle having at least one trimming wire for enabling performance of said edge trimming operations during rotation of said spindle, said spindle being coupled to said trimming unit by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said spindle by rotation of said spindle relative to said shaft

33. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 31, wherein said drive means comprising at least one driven pulley operatively coupled to a drive pulley of the vehicle for driving said trimming unit.

34. (Currently Ameded) A trimming system according to claim ~~31~~ 33, wherein said drive pulley being coupled to a mowing unit and said trimming unit to at least one of selectively and simultaneously drive said mowing and trimming units.

35. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 31, wherein said guide wheel being made of nylon.

36. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 31, wherein said bracket permits the predetermined deflection of said guide wheel to thus enable a user to operate the vehicle at full speed away from and in the vicinity of the cemetery headstones without requiring reduction of the speed in the vicinity of the cemetery headstones.

37. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 31, wherein said bracket is positioned such that said trimming wire of said trimming unit contacts the cemetery headstone to cut grass directly adjacent the cemetery headstone.